

Message Text

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61

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4447

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6544

DEPT PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, PERSONS AND QUACKENBUSH

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, XF

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON DR. SALEH BURGAN NEWLY APPOINTED ILO DEPUTY
DIRECTOR GENERAL

1. APPOINTMENT OF DR. SALEH BURGAN AS ILO DEPUTY DIRECTOR
GENERAL (NEWS OF WHICH DR. BURGAN RECEIVED TODAY IN TELE-
GRAM FROM ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD AND SUBSEQUENTLY
MADE PUBLIC AT ONGOING MANPOWER CONFERENCE AT
BEIRUT) RETURNS AN ARAB TO POST FORMERLY HELD BY AN EGYPTIAN,
THE LATE DR. ABBAS AMMAR.

2. OF THE VARIOUS ARAB CANDIDATES JOUSTING FOR NOMINATION--
AND THERE WERE MANY--DR. BURGAN, A JORDANIAN, APPEARS TO
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US TO REPRESENT MOST FAVORABLE CHOICE FROM PERSPECTIVE OF US

INTERESTS. POSITIVELY DISPOSED TOWARDS US (HE HAS SON AT U OF ILLINOIS), HE IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED MAN OF MODERATION BY FELLOW ARABS. BOTH AS CABINET MINISTER IN JORDAN AND AS DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL ILO OFFICE AT BEIRUT, HE HAS BEEN COOPERATIVE AND ON CLOSE TERMS WITH US OFFICIALS.

3. TIMING OF DR. BURGAN'S APPOINTMENT WILL INEVITABLY MAKE HIM CENTRAL FIGURE IN CONTEXT OF ARAB ISSUES LIKELY TO BE RAISED AT UPCOMING ILO CONFERENCE. MOST ARAB DELEGATES, REGARDLESS OF HOW THEY EARLIER VIEWED HIS CANDIDACY, WILL LOOK UPON HIM AS THE SENIOR ARAB REP IN ILO HIERARCHY AND LIKELY TURN TO HIM FOR BACKSTAGE ADVICE AND COUNSEL. HENCE, WE RECOMMEND US DEL ENDEAVOR USE HIM AS KEY CONTACT IN EFFORTS TO SEEK FAVORABLE DISPOSITION OF PROSPECTIVE ARAB ISSUES.

4. WE WOULD THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT RANKING US DELEGATES SEND DR. BURGAN (C/O ILO HEADQUARTERS AT GENEVA, WHERE HE WILL BE FROM MAY 26 ON) MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS AND FOLLOW UP WITH PERSONAL CONTACT EARLY ON DURING CONFERENCE.
GODLEY

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